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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000107

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FOR NEA/ARPI AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: CAMELS JOCKEYED EXCLUSIVELY BY ROBOTS AT KUWAIT
CAMEL RACING CLUB

REF: A. BURNS/BROWN EMAIL 12/22/2005

- [1](#)B. 05 KUWAIT 4477
- [1](#)C. 05 KUWAIT 3640
- [1](#)D. 05 KUWAIT 3412
- [1](#)E. 05 KUWAIT 1517

[1](#)1. On January 12, Poloff visited the Kuwait Camel Racing club in the Kabid area of Kuwait, located about 30km southwest of the capital city. During the November - April racing season, races take place for two to three hours most Thursdays. Poloff observed during his unscheduled two-hour visit that every camel was fitted with a mechanical jockey. Poloff also visited the area where the camels are held after the races and confirmed that none of the camels were being ridden by children. The camel handlers were all adults as well.

[1](#)2. Tawfiq Al-Eid, Head of the Organizing Committee for the Sixth Annual Camel Racing Championship, scheduled for February 5-9, informed the press January 14th that only robot jockeys will be used.

[1](#)3. Activist Ansar Burney has not/not contacted Post about his belief that underage jockeys are used in Kuwait (ref A). Post contacts have not reported any dealings with him either. Emboffs are available to meet with Burney should he request a meeting.

Visit Embassy Kuwait's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/>

You can also access this site through the
State Department's Classified SIPRNET website

LeBaron